

Meet Imani!



Hi everyone!

My name is Imani Uzuri. I was raised in rural North Carolina in a very small town surrounded by fields and beautiful woods, and now I live in Harlem. I come from a family of quilters and moonshine makers, and I grew up singing black American spirituals with my grandmother and extended family in our small country church. As I grew older, I learned that many of the spirituals I sang as a child were also used as freedom songs during the Civil Rights Movement. It is exciting to learn that songs travel through time to tell a story of how the past is connected to our future.

So looking forward to singing with all of you very soon!

Imani



Musical Explorers
c/o Carnegie Hall
881 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019

Leaving from
Brighton Beach, Brooklyn



We asked Imani ...

Tell us about your name.

My full name, Imani Uzuri, is made up of two Swahili words from East Africa. Imani means "faith," which is also the last principle of Kwanzaa, and Uzuri means "beautiful."

What are some of your favorite childhood memories growing up in rural North Carolina?

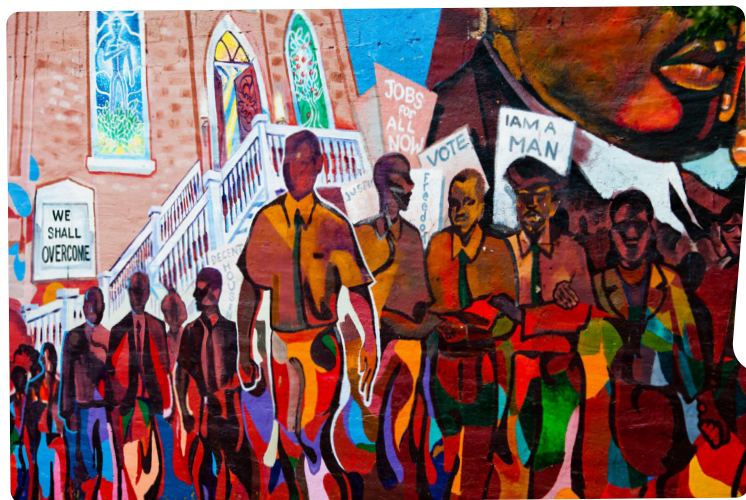
As a child, some of my favorite things to do were to search for wild strawberries in the woods surrounding my home and read books underneath my favorite pecan tree. I also loved to draw, make up fantastical stories, and sing songs to anyone in my family who would listen.

Where are some places in the world you have sung freedom songs?

I have sung freedom songs all over the world including Brooklyn, Brazil, Morocco, and Moscow. When I travel around the world to sing, learning greetings in different languages has helped me to communicate with many people. But music is a universal language, and it is my most joyous way to say hello to everyone.

What is your favorite thing about singing freedom songs?

They make me feel free, happy, and strong!



Arriving at
Harlem, Manhattan